

**R E M A R K S**

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

**THE CLAIMS**

Independent claims 1, 7, 13 and 19 have been amended to clarify the feature of the present invention whereby the identification information and the page information are printed on the back surface of the sheet on an edge of the sheet that is first output from a sheet discharge port from which the sheet is discharged, based on the subject matter of (now canceled) claims 6, 12, 18 and 24 and as shown in Fig. 6. In addition, independent claims 1, 7, 13 and 19 have been amended to clarify the feature of the present invention whereby the identification information and the page information are printed in a reverse direction with respect to a direction of printing on the front surface. See Fig. 6.

Still further, claims 1, 8, 13, 17, 20 and 23 have been amended to make some minor clarifying amendments and/or to correct some minor antecedent basis problems.

No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the amendments to the claims be approved and entered under 37 CFR 1.116.

THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

It is respectfully submitted that the grounds for rejection of each claim have not been specifically set forth in the Final Office Action dated August 8, 2006. However, based on the grounds for rejection identified at the beginning of items 2 and 3 in the "Claim Rejections" section and based on the text of the Final Office Action, it appears that claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 12-14, 19, 20 and 24 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of the previously cited combination of USP 5,316,279 ("Corona et al") and "Microsoft Corporation Notepad," and that claims 3, 5, 6, 9-11, 15-17 and 21-23 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of the previously cited combination of Corona et al, "Microsoft Corporation Notepad" and USP 6,055,361 ("Fujita et al"). Claims 4 and 18 do not appear to have been specifically addressed.

In the paragraph bridging pages 3 and 4 of the Final Office Action, the Examiner also indicates that claims 1, 7, 13 and 19 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of the combination of Corona et al and "Microsoft Corporation Notepad," and that claims 2-6, 8-12, 14-18 and 20-24 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of the combination of Corona et al, "Microsoft Corporation Notepad" and previously cited Fujita et al. This statement does not accord with the text of the Final Office Action.

In any event, the rejections are respectfully traversed with respect to the claims as amended hereinabove.

According to the present invention as recited in amended independent claims 1, 7, 13 and 19, the identification information and the page information are printed on the back surface of the sheet on an edge of the sheet that is first output from a sheet discharge port from which the sheet is discharged, and the user identification information and the page information are printed in a reverse direction with respect to a direction of printing on the front surface. See Fig. 6.

With this structure of the claimed present invention, the user can easily identify his or her printed sheet from other printed sheets, since the identification information and page information are printed in an easily visible location on the back surface of the sheet and in a direction in which the information on the back surface of the sheet can easily be read.

It is respectfully submitted that Corona et al does not at all disclose, teach or suggest this feature of the claimed present invention.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the amended independent claims 1, 7, 13 and 19, as well as each of claims 2-5, 8-11, 14-17 and 20-23 respectively depending therefrom, all clearly patentably distinguish over Corona et al, "Microsoft

Corporation Notepad" and Fujita et al, taken singly or in any combination, under 35 USC 103.

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In view of the foregoing, entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,

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